



EMPIRE ELECTRIC
ASSOCIATION, INC.


Valley Range
ENERGY PARK

www.eea.coop
www.valleyrangeep.com

EMPIRE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS

VALLEY RANGE ENERGY PARK

SEPTEMBER 2026

LOCAL POWER. LONG-TERM REVENUE FOR OUR MEMBERS.

Empire Electric Association's primary mission is to safely, responsibly, and reliably meet the electrical needs of our member-owners. Valley Range Energy Park will help us deliver on that mission by providing local energy and a low-risk source of long-term revenue.

EEA, San Miguel Power Association, Gunnison County Electric Association, and San Louis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative will purchase power from Valley Range through Tri-State's Bring Your Own Resource program. Our participation is driven by the benefits to our members that will reduce upward rate pressure.

LOW-RISK, LONG-TERM REVENUE

Valley Range will provide EEA with a low-risk, long-term revenue opportunity. That value will help support the cost of providing electric service and strengthen our cooperative's financial position for the benefit of members.

GREATER AFFORDABILITY

Revenue from the project will help offset costs that would otherwise need to be recovered through electric rates. Adding this resource to our power supply will help EEA manage costs over time and support affordable service.

IMPROVED RELIABILITY

Valley Range co-locates solar generation with battery storage (BESS). The batteries can store 62.5MW of electricity and deliver it when needed, adding flexibility to the power supply that serves our members.

POWER THAT BENEFITS MEMBERS

Valley Range will connect to Tri-State at the East Cortez substation. EEA's participation will bring the project's energy and financial benefits into the cooperative system serving local homes, farms, ranches, and businesses.

RESPONSIBLE LAND USE

The proposed layout includes approximately 600 acres of conservation areas, wildlife corridors, and substantial setbacks from neighboring properties, with solar facilities located on approximately 900 acres of unproductive rangeland. The project also requires limited water and other government services.

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

The project's economic study estimates approximately \$13.9 million in local tax revenue over its operating life, supporting schools, fire services, and other local taxing districts in addition to local construction employment and local spending.

EMPIRE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS VALLEY RANGE
TO PROVIDE LASTING VALUE TO THE MEMBERS WE SERVE.



VALLEY RANGE ENERGY PARK

YOUR QUESTIONS, ANSWERED.

What is Valley Range Energy Park?

Valley Range is a proposed solar and battery storage project southeast of Cortez in Montezuma County, located south of the Fairgrounds. The project includes 125MW of solar generation co-located with 62.5MW of battery storage. Valley Range is being proposed by Accelergen Energy, a privately owned renewable power and energy storage developer.

Why does EEA support the project?

Valley Range will provide a low-risk source of long-term revenue while supporting affordability and reliability for our members. EEA's interest in the project is based on the value it will provide to our members to reduce upward rate pressure.

How will this affect member electric bills?

The project will support affordability by providing predictable, long-term revenue and helping EEA manage power supply costs. It does not guarantee an immediate reduction in individual bills and it will not increase energy bills. It will reduce upward rate pressure, keeping electricity affordable.

How will battery energy storage improve reliability?

Battery energy storage systems allow electricity to be stored and delivered when needed, and to levelize costs during peak demand. While the solar generates additional electricity, the BESS gives Tri-State an important resource to help meet demand when member co-ops need it.

Will the power benefit people locally?

Yes. EEA and other participating cooperatives will purchase power through Tri-State's Bring Your Own Resource (BYOR) program. Valley Range will connect to Tri-State and will benefit its member co-ops, including EEA.

What is Bring Your Own Resource (BYOR)?

BYOR is a Tri-State program that allows participating cooperatives to contract for energy resources while continuing to receive wholesale service from Tri-State. Tri-State integrates the project's output into its system and credits participating cooperatives under the program's agreements.

What happens when the project reaches the end of its life?

Accelergen commits to remove project equipment and restore the site under a decommissioning plan, completely backed by a decommissioning bond that is held by a reputable third party for the benefit of Montezuma County and is regularly evaluated to ensure it could finance full decommissioning.

Is this project being developed to serve a data center or other large load development?

No. Valley Range is not being developed to serve a data center, mining operation, or another large-load development. The current planned production is being purchased by EEA and other participating Colorado co-ops to supply their memberships through Tri-State's BYOR program.

How is battery safety being addressed?

The proposed design includes lithium iron phosphate (LFP) batteries, a 24/7 battery management system, large scale fire tested (LSFT) containers, internal temperature controls, protective shutdown systems, and measures intended to limit danger if there is an equipment failure. The Cortez Fire Department, other Montezuma County fire departments, and the Office of Emergency Management are participating in developing the Emergency Response Guide and will receive regular classroom and in-person training.

How will the project protect agricultural land and wildlife?

Valley Range is proposed on non-irrigated rangeland that has been uneconomic for ag-realted production. The proposed layout includes hundreds of acres of conservation areas, large setbacks from neighboring properties, and approximately 80 acres of wildlife corridors to help maintain wildlife movement through the area. Accelergen has consulted with Colorado Parks and Wildlife in developing the project and adopted CPW suggestions on project layout. Valley Range construction is expected to last 12 months; after construction, there will be an expected six vehicle trips per day from the two access roads off of Hwy 160.

How can I support Valley Range?

The support of Montezuma County residents is essential to Valley Range being permitted. Please sign a letter of support and speak in support of Valley Range at the planning commission and board of county commissioner hearings.

**Tell your commissioners to approve
Valley Range!**

**Sign a letter of support at
eea.coop/support-valley-range**